

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for performing an operation relating a printed wiring board, comprising:

a main frame;

a printed-wiring-board holding device which is provided on the main frame, and includes a holding table having a surface and a plurality of negative-pressure-supply holes opening in the surface, and additionally includes a plurality of holding members each of which has a support surface, a bottom surface for close contact with the surface of the holding table, and a negative-pressure passage formed therethrough, and is set on the surface of the holding table such that the negative-pressure passage thereof is communicated with at least one of the negative-pressure-supply holes, so that the support surface of said each holding member supports the back surface of the printed wiring board and a negative pressure supplied via the negative-pressure passage from said at least one negative-pressure-supply hole is applied to the back surface of the board to hold the board;

an operation performing device which is provided on the main frame and performs an operation for a front surface of the printed wiring board supported by the printed-wiring-board supporting device;

a holding-member storing device which is provided on the main frame and in which the holding members are stored;

a first holding head which can hold each of the holding members;

a first moving device which moves at least one of the first holding head, and each of the holding table and the holding-member storing device, relative to the other of the first holding head and said each of the holding table and the holding-member storing device, in at

least a direction parallel to the surface of the holding table, so that the first holding head takes a prescribed one of the holding members from the holding-member storing device and sets said one holding member at a prescribed setting position on the surface of the holding table, and takes said one holding member from the setting position and stores said one holding member in the holding-member storing device;

a plurality of closing members each of which is set on the surface of the holding table and closes one of the negative- pressure-supply holes that is not communicated with the negative-pressure passages of any holding members;

a closing-member storing device which is provided on the main frame and in which the closing members are stored;

a second holding head which can hold each of the closing members;

a second moving device which moves at least one of the second holding head, and each of the holding table and the closing-member storing device, relative to the other of the second holding head and said each of the holding table and the closing-member storing device, in at least a direction parallel to the surface of the holding table, so that the second holding head takes a prescribed one of the closing members from the closing- member storing device and sets said one closing member at a prescribed closing position on the surface of the holding table where said one closing member closes a prescribed one of the negative-pressure-supply holes that is not communicated with the negative-pressure passages of any holding members, and the second holding head takes said one closing member from the closing position and stores said one closing member in the closing-member storing device; and

a control device which controls the first moving device so that the first holding head takes said one holding member from the holding-member storing device and sets said one

holding member at the setting position, and takes said one holding member from the setting position and stores said one holding member in the holding-member storing device, and controls the second moving device so that the second holding head takes said one closing member from the closing-member storing device and sets said one closing member at the closing position, and takes said one closing member from the closing position and stores said one closing member in the closing- member storing device.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the second holding head is provided by the first holding head, and the second moving device is provided by the first moving device.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the closing-member storing device is provided by the holding- member storing device.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein the operation performing device comprises an operation performing head which performs said operation, and wherein the first moving device moves at least one of the operation performing head and the printed-wiring-board supporting device, relative to the other of the operation performing head and the printed- wiring-board supporting device, in at least a direction parallel to the surface of the holding table, so that the operation performing head performs said operation.

5. A method of setting a printed-wiring-board supporting device of a printed-wiring-board-relating-operation performing system, the printed-wiring-board supporting device including a supporting table and a plurality of supporting members for being set on a surface of the supporting table to support a back surface of a printed wiring board, the printed- wiring-board-relating-operation performing system additionally including a main frame on which the supporting table is provided, and an operation performing device which is provided on the main

frame and performs an operation for a front surface of the printed wiring board supported by the printed-wiring-board supporting device, the method comprising the steps of:

detaching the supporting table from the main frame of the system,

setting, at a place outside the system, the supporting members on the supporting table, and

attaching the supporting table on which the supporting members have been set, to the main frame of the system.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the supporting table comprises a holding table having a plurality of negative-pressure-supply holes opening in the surface thereof, and the supporting members comprise a plurality of holding members each of which has a support surface, a bottom surface for close contact with the surface of the holding table, and a negative-pressure passage formed therethrough, wherein the step of setting comprises setting, on the holding table detached from the main frame, each of the holding members such that the negative-pressure passage of said each holding member is communicated with at least one of the negative-pressure-supply holes of the holding table, and wherein the step of attaching comprises closing, with at least one closing member, at least one of the negative-pressure-supply holes that is not communicated with the negative-pressure passages of any holding members and open in the surface of the holding table, and attaching the holding table with the holding members and said at least one closing member, to the main frame of the system.